

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

This week, Sinclair Broadcasting, the largest owner of local television stations in the U.S., ordered its 62 stations to preempt regular programming to air an anti-Kerry documentary just a few days before the election.

Sinclair stations use public airwaves free of charge, and are required by law to serve the public interest. One-sided programs, like "Stolen Honor", do not serve the public interest and are harmful to our democracy.

Whether Sinclair does this in support of conservatives or liberals is not the issue. The issue is a billion-dollar corporation shunning journalistic standards in order to advance its political agenda and its own bottom line. It is a threat to the integrity of our democracy and a startling example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.